

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/553,240**
Amendment filed April 8, 2010
Reply to OA dated March 16, 2010

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 12 and 14-31 are pending in this application, with claims 1-8 and 14-31 withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-8 and 14-31 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claim 9 is amended herein. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 9, 10 and 12 will be pending. Applicant notes that the amendment proposed on February 16, 2010, has not been entered, and the present amendment amends the claims from their wording as of the Supplemental Amendment of July 15, 2009. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the rejections are respectfully requested.

No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

Applicant's agent, Daniel Geselowitz, conducted telephonic interviews with Examiner Metzmaier on March 11 and March 12, 2010, as summarized in the Examiner's interview summary in the Advisory action mailed March 12, 2010. Applicant thanks the Examiner for his courtesy during those interviews. The present amendment to claim 9 amends the claim as proposed during those interviews, and the wording of presently amended claim 9 is the same as that resulting from the proposed amendment as listed in the interview summary. This amendment clarifies the recitation of the concentration and washing step in claim 9.

In view of the interviews with Examiner Metzmaier, Applicant believes that the present amendment places the application in condition for allowance.


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If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time

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